



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Estates Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

26 April 2017

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0311-17

Thank you for your e-mail of 28 March 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I am trying to determine whether a writing table or a dining table (or both) belonging to Gertrude Bell was kept in the dining room of the British ambassador's residence in Baghdad, circa 2004-2007. I would be grateful for any information regarding this table and its history.

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

We can confirm that the Gertrude Bell table is still in the British Ambassador's residence in the British Embassy compound in Baghdad's "Green Zone". Please see **Annex A** for the 2008 inventory that we have found. It was moved there from our pre-2003 residence in what was known as the Tigris Compound. A photograph of the table (date unknown), which is located in the dining room, is also attached as **Annex B**. However, we regret we have been unable to find any further information about its history. For general information on the history of our diplomatic estate in Iraq you might like to consult the website "Room for Diplomacy" which is run by a former head of FCO Estates. The address is:

<https://roomfordiplomacy.com/>

Yours sincerely

Estates Department



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